

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



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**Weather:** Increase in precipitation occurred in much of the State, with some thunderstorms reported in eastern Oregon. Warmer temperatures have promoted good grass growth on pastures. Temperatures in the Willamette Valley were as high as 8 degrees above normal in Corvallis, with precipitation ranging from 0.57 to 1.53 inches above normal. Coastal weather stations reported highs in the 60's and precipitation as much as 0.51 inches above normal. Continued spring precipitation may reduce effects of the low snowpack in the mountains.

**Field Crops:** Spring planting continues Statewide. In eastern Oregon, the continued precipitation is helping improve winter wheat conditions. Excellent spring rains are needed to generate an average year. In Malheur County, sugarbeet planting was winding down. In Klamath County, precipitation slowed ground preparation work. In western Oregon, fall seeded grains need some sunshine. Fieldwork was on hold while waiting for breaks in the rain. In Marion County, there were a few reports of powdery mildew in some wheat fields. Growers were finishing up with fertilization of wheat fields and getting broadleaf herbicide applications on wheat and grass seed fields.

**Vegetables:** Precipitation slowed or halted ground preparation in some areas as soil was still too wet to plow. Jackson County reported that onions, early peas and carrots as well as some potatoes were in the fields. In Lane County, spring vegetables, potatoes, garlic, leeks and leafy vegetables were sold at Farmers Markets. Klamath County growers were preparing fields for planting potatoes. Onion planting winding down in Malheur County.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nursery shipping of bareroot plants was slowing down because digging is over. However, shipping of containers and balled plant material is still very active to eastern markets. Greenhouses were shipping bedding plants to retail outlets. Many firms are having spring bulb festivals to sell their products. Spring plant sales are starting. Christmas tree growers were planting seedlings.

**Fruit:** Willamette Valley fruit trees were in various stages of bloom. Berry crops were leafing out in most of the Valley, with some berries in bloom. Yamhill County sweet cherries were in full bloom on the Valley floor. In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears were in full bloom; Red Delicious apples were at first to full pink; cherries were in full bloom; and Pinot Noir grapes continued in doeskin. The intermittent showers have resulted in sporadic pear and apple scab infections throughout the Valley. Most fruit trees reached full boom in

Wasco County. Weather patterns adversely affected some cherry pollination. Apricot and peaches nearly done with bloom in Jackson County. There was some spraying activity intermingled with rain showers. There were some killing frosts reported in Josephine County. Southern coast blueberry bloom continued. Cranberry bud development varied; most Stevens variety were in white bud to bud break.

**Livestock Range and Pasture:** In western Oregon, pasture growth is off to a good start, but would benefit from some warmer days. Animals that were turned out in Coos and Curry counties had to be returned due to bottom ground flooding. Stored feed supplies dwindling there. In eastern Oregon, pastures primarily in fair to good condition with sustained moisture needed. Supplemental feed continued, but more cattle being turned out to pasture across the State. Calving and lambing season winding down, with good results. Some ranchers beginning to mark and vaccinate their calves.

## Crop Progress Week Ending 4/13/2003

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley planted (%)	59	27	69	73
All Barley emerged (%)	28	7	41	--
Spring wheat planted (%)	78	49	84	--
Spring wheat emerged (%)	48	14	45	--
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.2	5.0	--	--

## Soil Moisture Week Ending 4/13/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	1	16	71	12
Subsoil (%)	11	29	53	7

## Range & Pasture Condition Week Ending 4/13/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat %	0	13	67	18	2
Barley condition %	0	3	70	23	4
Range & Pasture %	2	11	43	39	5

**CLACKAMAS:** Fieldwork still on hold waiting for a break in the rainy conditions. Only one day in April without rainfall. Winter wheat looks like it needs a little sunshine, as do most other crops. Berry and tree fruits are leafing out slowly. Most vegetable planting activities are on hold. Nursery shipping is slowing down as bareroot digging is over. Container and balled material movement is still very active. Greenhouses are gearing up for a surge when the weather cooperates. Even with the below normal temperatures, pastures are putting on pretty good growth. Livestock are in good condition.

**COOS/CURRY:** Five days suitable for fieldwork in Coos; three in Curry. Blueberry bloom continued; cranberry bud development varied considerably; most "Stevens" were estimated to range from white bud to bud break. Easter lilies were in retail stores. Animals were turned out and then brought back in because of more flooding on bottom ground. Stored feed supplies were dwindling. Lambing and calving were coming to an end. Mostly cloudy with sun breaks. Frequent periods of rain or showers. Average air and soil temperatures were somewhat warmer than the previous week. Average air temperatures at coastal Agri-Met weather stations ranged from 51.9 to 52.7 deg F; highs ranged from 60.2 to 63.8 and lows ranged from 45.3 to 46.4 deg F. Precipitation ranged from 1.09" at Bandon to 2.37" at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 25 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 29 GDD at Bandon. Pasture and range conditions continue to be fair to good, and are still showing the effects of the drought last year and cool spring. Lowland pastures along rivers continue to be inundated with standing water, but levels are dropping.

**JACKSON:** Six days suitable for fieldwork. Barley 55% planted; 50% emerged. Barley condition 5% poor, 20% fair, 70% good, 5% excellent. Spring wheat planted 50%; 40% emerged. Winter wheat condition 5% poor, 20% fair, 70% good, 5% excellent. Field crops could use some sunshine. They have enough moisture but are a little yellow. Alfalfa hay looks to be off to a good start for the year. Grass hay is also getting a good start, but could use some sunny days. Apricots and peaches are about done with bloom, and pears are getting good start. Some first cover sprays being applied, but the rains showers are a problem. Good stickers are being used to help hold the sprays. Some ground spraying for weeds being done. Pruning cleanup also being done. Some onions, early carrots, early peas and

potatoes are now in. Greenhouses quite busy with early spring flower starts and some garden starts. Stores have a good supply of both. Nurseries busy with selling spring shrubs, trees and other ornamentals. Livestock good to excellent. Grass is off to a good start; still some supplemental feeding. Range and pasture 60% good, 40% excellent. Lots of baby lambs in the pastures. Spring saw a few new colts with their mothers, also out on good pasture. Pastures need some warmer days with sun, but are getting a good start.

**JOSEPHINE:** Livestock in good condition. Native trees and shrubs are in full bloom. Fruit trees entered flowering and fruit stage and are in bloom. Had some killing frosts at early bloom time for cherries. Milder frosts during plum and pear bloom. Apples weren't far enough along to be bothered. Ground too wet to work last two weeks but have been doing preparation work for equipment and storage areas. Greenhouses are busy and sales are rapid for planting starts. Soil still cold.

**LANE:** Small Fruits - blueberries in full bloom, black and raspberries leafing out. Strawberries - developing. Tree Fruits - cherries, nearing bloom end, - peaches - light to moderate crop. Pears - full bloom - apples - near bloom; lots of scab sprays going on. Vegetable soil too wet to plow. Farmers Market - started. Spring vegetables being sold, with potatoes, garlic, leeks and lots of leafy vegetables.

**MARION:** Five days suitable for fieldwork. Spring wheat 80% planted; 50% emerged. Winter wheat condition poor to good. Wet weather continues to hamper some fieldwork. Some areas in winter wheat fields are showing signs of excess soil moisture. Have had reports of some powdery mildew showing up in some wheat fields. A few growers still trying to finish up with fertilization of wheat fields and getting broadleaf herbicide applications on wheat and grass seed fields. Most grass seed and clover seed fields looking fairly good but could use a few days of dry weather. Continual moisture is delaying field work and is interfering with pollination of early flowering fruits.

**YAMHILL:** Sweet cherries are in full bloom on the Valley floor. Brown rot blossom sprays are being applied. Eastern Filbert Blight sprays are being applied to hazelnuts.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Six days suitable for fieldwork. Barley 50% planted; 25% emerged. Barley condition good. Spring wheat 60% planted, 30% emerged. Winter wheat condition 20% fair, 80% good. Field preparation, planting and fertilization all underway. Bedding plants progressing well and being shipped. Livestock fair. Range and pasture 30% fair, 70% good. Calving winding down, with good results reported. Branding and turnout underway.

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** Livestock fair. Calving still going very well. Even though runoff is low this year, many meadow hay fields are getting at least one good watering. Some thunderstorms late in the week brought rain and hail.

**GILLIAM:** Intermittent showers have continued to sustain spring grazing conditions. Continued precipitation is helping winter wheat that was held back due to dry seeding conditions.

**GRANT:** Due to the many rains and snow this spring, several springs and streams are running that have not ran for several years.

**HOOD RIVER:** In lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears at full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apples at first pink to full pink (WSU stages 5 & 6); cherries at full bloom (WSU stage 8); Pinot noir grapes at doeskin (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 3). Intermittent rain has resulted in sporadic pear and apple scab infection periods in most areas of the Hood River Valley. Moderate temperatures have kept fire blight risk and frost danger low.

**KLAMATH:** Precipitation slowed or halted spring ground preparation. Receiving seed and preparing fields for planting of potatoes. Still continue to feed some hay. There is some pasture turn out. We saw the first live goslings and white pelicans last week.

**LAKE:** Many permittees have or will be soon turning out on spring desert grazing permits. The grass on these is starting to come well, but the lack of water in water holes is a concern. It is still early for a lot of farm work to be taking place, and April weather has brought some moisture and colder temperatures on a weekly basis. Those producers with stream water rights starting on April 1 are currently irrigating. Snowpack in the mountains was very low this year, and stored water is low. The best hope to carry us through the summer is some spring and summer rain.

**MALHEUR:** Seven days suitable for fieldwork. Wheat still looking good. A few sugarbeets yet to be planted. Onion planting winding down. Cattle being turned out. Weather toward end of week was cool with threatening showers but no real amount. Warm weather has produced good early grass growth. Wheat is beginning to fill-in well. Corn planting is also in full swing. Sugarbeet acres may be lower this year because of irrigation water shortages in some areas. Cattle are being turned out onto range but some water hauling is going to have to be done to keep the range stocked.

**MORROW:** Approximately 3.23 inches of available moisture in deep soils of the county. This is 40% of capacity. Shallow soils contain, on average, 2.93 inches of available moisture (about 55% of capacity). Crop year precipitation is close to long term average. Winter wheat yield potentials, which are dependent on subsequent rainfall, range from 7 to 35 bu/acre. Livestock fair. Range and pasture 25% poor, 50% fair, 25% good. We need excellent spring rains to generate an average forage year.

**SHERMAN:** Barley 45% emerged. Barley condition is fair. Spring wheat 60% planted; 45% emerged. Winter wheat condition fair. Spraying and tillage continue to get started. Spring seeding conditions seem good. Livestock good. Range and pasture 25% poor, 50% fair, 25% good. Still showing effects of 5-year drought. Bull Tour begins April 10.

**UMATILLA:** Seven days suitable for fieldwork. Barley 100% planted; 50% emerged. Barley condition 40% good, 60% excellent. Spring wheat 100% planted; 60% emerged. Winter wheat condition 10% fair, 40% good, 50% excellent.

**UNION:** Showers throughout the week; sometimes thunderstorms. Warmer weather is needed to increase plant growth.

**WALLOWA:** Little change from last week. The spring planting season is here. Farmers are very busy trying to get their crops in between rain showers. The grass is growing and some ranchers are taking their livestock out to pasture.

**WASCO:** Short periods of showers this week kept topsoil moist for all field crops. Most fruit trees reached full bloom and honey bees were being rotated every few days to get uniform pollination. Night-time temperatures held in the low 40's and only limited use of frost fans were needed. Some cattle are still on supplemental feed. A few cattlemen are starting to mark and vaccinate their calves. Alfalfa and pasture grasses starting to bolt in height. We finally had a couple of days of good pollination weather for the sweet cherries. Mill Creek, the earliest production area, was in full bloom on April 10. Unfortunately, polinizer trees were in bloom for nearly a week before Bing and Royal Anne trees began to bloom. The concern is pollen viability. Later production areas are just now beginning to bloom.

**WHEELER:** Currently, conditions for crops and pasture look fairly promising. Wheeler County has received more moisture this spring than in the past couple of years.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING April 13, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
							TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	PCT	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	43	62	51	4	10	3	1.63	0.47	5	54.50	-1.67	97	137
Crescent City	47	61	53	4	25	4	1.78	0.59	5	51.34	-6.08	89	96
Florence	37	67	52	4	17	8	1.70	0.34	6	69.10	3.64	106	122
North Bend	44	64	52	4	19	7	1.70	0.51	6	58.49	3.38	106	118
Tillamook	35	64	51	5	15	8	1.99	0.46	5	76.49	1.88	103	130
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	45	70	56	8	41	27	1.22	0.57	5	30.59	-6.27	83	99
Eugene	44	69	54	5	31	15	1.48	0.68	6	35.96	-6.71	84	115
Hillsboro	38	66	53	5	21	7	2.07	1.53	6	32.19	0.29	101	117
McMinnville	39	67	52	4	17	3	1.65	1.01	6	35.56	-2.26	94	118
Portland	43	68	54	5	31	14	1.51	0.92	6	29.75	-0.04	100	118
Salem	42	68	54	6	28	14	1.94	1.34	6	34.82	1.43	104	118
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	37	70	52	1	22	-6	0.39	-0.07	3	29.02	1.27	105	87
Medford	38	72	53	4	25	3	0.56	0.28	5	19.50	3.60	123	84
Roseburg	41	71	55	5	35	12	0.67	0.10	5	27.85	-0.38	99	103
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	30	70	49	6	11	4	0.25	-0.03	1	8.85	-1.12	89	77
Heppner	21	72	51	4	22	8	0.28	-0.02	4	9.35	-0.46	95	79
Hermiston	30	78	55	5	37	16	0.04	-0.15	2	6.35	-0.55	92	63
John Day	28	71	51	7	18	6	0.24	-0.04	3	7.74	-0.51	94	75
Moro	30	67	49	5	8	1	0.38	0.17	2	8.85	0.27	103	64
Pendleton	32	75	55	7	39	21	0.13	-0.15	1	9.62	0.63	107	80
The Dalles	35	71	54	8	34	22	0.13	-0.08	4	12.63	2.57	126	75
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	31	72	49	7	8	1	0.14	0.00	1	5.41	-3.25	62	44
Burns	21	70	45	5	1	-6	0.35	0.21	2	5.63	-1.11	84	59
Klamath Falls	28	65	45	2	0	-7	0.23	0.02	3	8.80	-1.84	83	64
Lakeview	27	67	44	3	1	-6	0.02	-0.26	1	3.06	-8.40	27	37
Redmond	22	74	49	7	10	3	0.23	0.09	3	4.19	-1.62	72	51
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	18	74	47	3	1	-6	0.26	0.12	2	4.67	-1.53	75	65
Joseph	26	66	44	6	2	-4	0.26	-0.16	4	13.64	-4.48	75	100
La Grande	25	73	51	7	19	7	0.05	-0.03	2	7.41	-4.68	61	73
Union	26	74	50	6	23	14	0.21	-0.07	4	10.17	1.86	122	84
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	27	76	54	5	40	17	0.02	-0.12	2	5.95	-1.30	82	57
Rome	19	74	49	5	17	6	0.14	0.00	1	3.50	-1.55	69	48

Summary based on National Weather Service data.  
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.  
DFN=Departure from normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.  
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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Oregon Crop Weather 2-03

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